

"This is a public comment for the Wyzost Petition
CC Docket # 96-128"
(Dear Mr. Genachowski Chairman:

10/1/12
Received & Inspected

OCT 10 2012

FCC Mail Room

BRUCE DIVINCENZO AP8215
PO BOX 9999
LA BELLE PA 15450-0999

Enclosed find your page ad from my September 2011 issue of Prison Legal News as I would like to offer my my thoughts on the prison system of Global Tel Link and their outrageous fees for a 15-minute phone call

It costs a total of \$6.05 to call my sister across the state in Phila and the same to call my friend a few miles north in Pittsburg. The first minute just to accept a collect call is: \$2.27, then each additional minute x 14 is .27¢ or +3.78
Total: \$6.05

This is anywhere from where I am in Robell, Pa. to another in Pennsylvania. Now, if I buy a phone card from commissary, and I pre-pay, I am told it is but only \$1.00 cheaper for 15 minutes.

His works her butt off on third shift at a restaurant and is "58." I am "60." He can only afford one call a month at these rates. My friend in Pgh. say it is pennies on the dollar for him to call her on his cell phone. But Global Tel Link knows they got me by the "cojones" and everyone else, so, I have no choice but to pay-fool, as the years pass, I may not have anyone left to call as many do not live.

My sentence is 81-162 years and I've been down since 1984 and fair to say I'm never leaving prison alive. Bank on it. I would love to talk to both my sister and friend, both of whom I now only have left for more than once month.

So, if my letter and story can be of help, then feel free to use it. Thank you very much for that full page, "eye opening" article.

BRUCE J DIVINCENZO AP8215
SCI FAYETTE
PO BOX 9999
LA BELLE PA 15450-0999

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Vincenzo
AP-8215

Phone (724) 364-2200

P.S. Do not hesitate to contact me by 1st class mail should the need or questions arise further.

Received & Inspected

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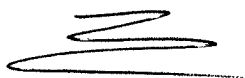
FCC Mail Room

10-2-2012

To whom it may Concern.

my Name is Jeffery LATHAM. I AM incarcerated in
hill Correctional in Galesburg IL. I've been incarcerated
for over 17-years and I must say it has taken everything
my family has to offer in their hearts to try to support me.
The phone cost has taken a toll on them as to where
they have had to turn their backs on me and put
blocks on the phone. The cost is just to high to call
from here to there. Can you ~~IMAGINE~~ the cost for over
17-years of calling from Menard, Graham, Stateville, and
Galesburg, it's just to much to bear. We as inmates hope
at anytime that we can assist in the fight against
the high cost of phone call to loved one and family
members, while the Department of Corrections and phone
companies get richer and richer at our cost.

"Please help"



Thankyou For your time

Jeffery Latham #B30158
600 Linnwood Rd P.O. Box 1700
Galesburg IL 61401

Proving Damages to the Jury, 1st Ed., by Jim Wren **(James Publishing, 2011). 800 pages (with CD), \$70.00**

Book review by John E. Dannenberg

P*roving Damages to the Jury* is a detailed “how-to” manual that takes the reader through the psychology, reasoning, preparation and execution of a civil damages trial. The object lesson is to learn how to select, prime and sell the jury on a maximum damage award for the plaintiff.

The author, Jim Wren, a law professor at Baylor University, has 30 years of trial experience and has been honored as a “Texas Super Lawyer.” *Proving Damages* is an incredibly insightful, pragmatic treatise for both litigants and attorneys who want to “win big.” The book’s 21 chapters are written in a succinct style with numerous helpful subheadings; the detailed table of contents alone is 30 pages.

Proving Damages begins with a study of juror motivations, fears and biases – identifying and analyzing 15 types of juror biases. The book explains that biases are shortcuts to decision-making, and occur naturally or can be acquired. Positive motivations are stronger than negative ones, Wren notes, when it comes to damages. Fears generally can be allayed by working to establish credibility through honesty and forthrightness throughout the trial. Indeed, one chapter is devoted to developing such candor and rapport with the jury, which Wren labels “vital” in maximizing damage awards.

Forty pages then address successful language keys for communicating damages. “It’s language, not math,” Wren asserts. A lengthy chapter analyzes interviewing and investigating the plaintiff in preparation for trial. The book distinguishes personal injury, wrongful death, business injury, real property and employment damage claims in this regard, with sample questionnaires for each type of claim. A discussion on the use of expert witnesses warns of potential legal challenges that need to be anticipated and resolved before trial. A chapter is devoted to the use of damages experts; another deals with “test juries” to help predict how much should realistically be requested. Telling the story to the jury using “psychodrama” is touted as an effective method.

The book then goes through the formal stages of trial, beginning with discovery, visual aids and evidentiary issues. Forty pages are devoted to voir dire – a time when Wren suggests pre-

selling jurors during the selection process. Opening statements, direct examination and cross-examination are addressed in separate chapters, in which Wren concentrates on fulfilling the baseline concept of credibility with the jury. Finally, although punitive damages are relatively rare, the book includes guidance on how to maximize results.

To help educate a jury on how to analyze all the variables involved, *Proving Damages* supplies sample damage estimation forms, amortization tables from which to calculate future damages,

and even Power Point slides that can be used during deliberations. If you need to research *Proving Damages* on the fly but can’t tote the 800-page tome around, just examine the included CD of the text on your computer and search by word or phrase.

Wren has promised to publish an updated edition of this book every two years that will include suggestions from readers. *Proving Damages* is available from James Publishing, 2505 Cadillac Ave., Suite H, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (800) 440-4780; www.jamespublishing.com. ■

GAO Report on Drug Courts Criticized by Drug Policy Alliance

by Joe Watson

The Drug Policy Alliance (DPA), the nation’s “leading organization promoting alternatives to current drug policy,” often has to wade through murky data to expose the ineffectiveness of the nation’s drug court system. But a recent federal study touting drug court successes only required the DPA to perform some simple math.

A report released by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in December 2011 found that 18 of 32 drug courts or prior drug court research reports surveyed – from Sacramento, California and Kalamazoo, Michigan to Queens, New York and Guam – produced “statistically significant” reductions in recidivism. Of course, if just over half of those drug courts produced statistically significant results, it stands to reason that the rest did not.

“The message here is: enter a drug court at your own risk,” said Margaret Dooley-Sammuli, deputy director of the DPA’s Southern California office. “The chance you’ll enter a drug court that might help you avoid getting arrested again is about 50-50, the equivalent of a coin toss. Clearly, the popularity that drug courts enjoy is not supported by the evidence.”

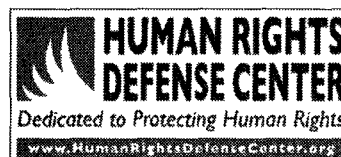
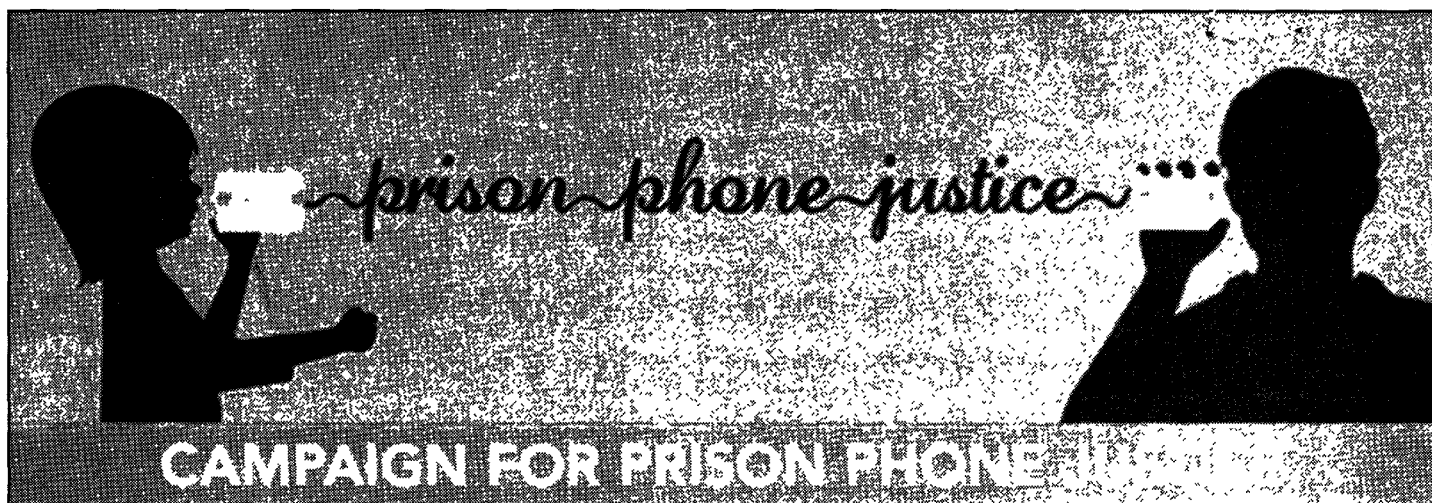
It’s difficult to extract from the GAO report what is considered “statistically significant.” The report’s footnotes assert that its findings are “statistically

significant only if they were significant at the 95%, or greater, level of statistical significance.”

Of the 18 drug courts the GAO report deemed successful, “the percentages of drug court program participants rearrested were lower than for comparison group members by 6 to 26 percentage points.” Despite the fact that the other 14 drug courts or drug court research reports surveyed did not produce such results, drug courts have their proponents.

Actor Martin Sheen appeared before Congress in April 2011, hoping to convince lawmakers to continue funding the nearly 2,500 drug courts operating in the United States. “Drug courts are the very best deal Congress can make to reduce crime and the social consequences related to drug addiction,” said Sheen, who credits court-mandated drug treatment for helping his son, actor Charlie Sheen. From reading the tabloid news media reports on his very public drug use, domestic violence and other issues, it is difficult to ascertain just how much “help” Charlie actually received beyond simply not going to prison.

The advantages of drug courts over traditional courts “are no longer up for debate,” added Dr. Doug Marlowe, chief of science and law for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. “Drug courts reduce crime by up to 45% and have been found to save up to \$13,000



JOIN THE CAMPAIGN FOR PRISON PHONE JUSTICE!

A national coalition of media and criminal justice activists, led by the Human Rights Defense Center, Working Narratives and the Center for Media Justice, invite you to join a campaign to fight the high cost of prison phone calls.

We need those inside our nation's jails, prisons and detention centers to speak up about the impact of the cost of prison phone calls on you and your family. With your support we will advance a state-by-state legislative challenge, while also pushing the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to take action.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Send a brief letter to the Federal Communications Commission explaining the impact the high costs of prison phone calls have had on you and your family. Address the letter "Dear Chairman Genachowski," and please speak from your own personal experience. You must state the following at the top of the letter: "This is a public comment for the Wright Petition (CC Docket #96-128)." Your letters will be made part of the public docket in the case.

Write to:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Public Comments
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Our goal is to gather thousands of powerful stories. The prison facility which registers the most letters will be highlighted on the campaign website and will get a co-producer credit on our national radio program addressing the high cost of prison phone calls.

We also need your help organizing on the outside. Ask your family members to sign up for the campaign at www.phonejustice.org and invite them to share their story about the high costs of prison phone calls. They can also register their comments online, directly with the FCC, at: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/upload/display.action?z=whn8> (enter docket #96-128).

Only with your support will we end the abusive cost of prison phone calls. Encourage others to join us in this struggle!

For more information: www.prisonphonejustice.org and www.phonejustice.org